Fraudulent exports by Bata (India) Limited

968. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has recently detected a huge fraud by Bata (India) Limited, a leading multinational company, by way of fraudulent exports;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is the amount involved; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) On 3rd February, 1986, the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, searched the premises of Bata factories and offices at Faridabad, Delhi, Bata Nagar and Calcutta. As a result, incriminating documents indicating company's involvement in certain fraudulent practices to get higher amount of drawback from the Government were recovered and seized. Preliminary scrutiny of the voluminous incriminating documents seized indicates that the Company was claiming higher amount of drawback based on their consumption data in respect of their export brands of rubber footwears.

On completion of investigation, appropriate action for the realisation of excess drawback paid to the Company would be taken apart from launching of penel proceeding as warranted under law.

Amendment of the payment of Gratuity Act, 1972

969. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the payment of Gratuity Act, 1972;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that on earlier occasions a number of representations were received to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) There have been number of representations for amending the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, with a view to removing the wage limit for coverage, raising the ceiling for payment of gratuity etc. These representations have been examined and certain proposals for amendment are under active consideration of the Government.

Supreme Court judgement regarding seniority of IES Officers

970. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court in its judgement of 11th February, 1986 in regard to seniority of Indian Economic Service Personnel stated that as against the total of 435 vacancies in IES meant for direct recruits between the years 1964 and 1984, only 342 direct recruits were appointed and that the posts which remained unfilled had been held by the persons who were departmental candidates;